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Research Paper

Volunteering in Canada in the 1990s: Change and Stasis

2000

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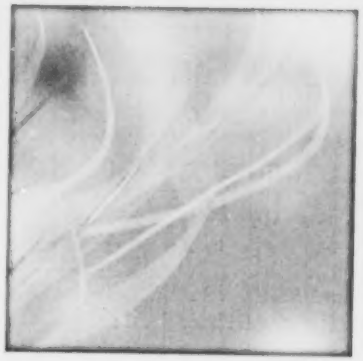

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A Research Report

by

Paul B. Reed and L. Kevin Selbee
Statistics Canada and Carleton University

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One in a series of reports from the Nonprofit Sector Knowledge Base Project.

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Interpretations and views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of sponsoring organizations.

1. Purpose and Limitations of the Report

While large-scale social change has been pandemic in Canadian society for decades, its pace and extent increased markedly during the 1990s. The principal dimensions of change in most occidental societies have included the explosive growth of new technology (digitization, communication), drastically altered patterns of economic production and trade (globalization, robotization), basic shifts in societal structures (heightened polarization; more varied family arrangements; increased privatization) and evolution of central values and ideals (greater diversity and diminished absoluteness of values; rising secularism). No less significant have been profound changes in the structure and functioning of institutions, especially government and other public institutions, with fundamental shifts in their institutional division of labour. Directly and indirectly, Canada's voluntary sector has been affected by many of these changes and has, in turn, undergone change itself. This report outlines how volunteer activity in Canada changed, or did not change, during the 1990s. Its purpose is to examine the fine texture of changes in volunteering, and thereby to identify the sources and locations of change in order to understand and provide a systematic picture of what is happening within the foundation of the voluntary sector, Canadians who are volunteers.

The report's contents are based on analysis of data from two national surveys of volunteer activity conducted by Statistics Canada in November 1987 (with a sample of 26,757 adults aged 15 years or older) and 1997 (with a sample of 18,301 adults). It should be noted that because these were surveys of individuals, and because there are no national statistics on voluntary organizations, this report deals only with change and stasis in the behaviours and characteristics of volunteers and not with the voluntary sector as a whole.[1] We also note that because we have data for only two widely separated points in time, it is not possible to speak of trends, only of change, or not, based on a comparison of data from those two time points. Change can be characterized as a trend — that is change that is ongoing in an identifiable

[1]General assessments of the voluntary sector in Canada within particular areas may be found in Reed and Howe (2000), Roberts (1998), and the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto (1997).

direction — only when data from a number of time points show the change to be consistent in a known direction.

The analysis comprises four sections: a comparison of 1997 with 1987 in the incidence of volunteering, followed by magnitudes and modes of volunteering each with consideration at both national and regional levels. A second section describes changes in volunteering rates and magnitudes between 1997 and 2000. The third and fourth sections assess stasis and change in the traits of volunteers and in the types of organizations that Canadians volunteer for.

2. Four Analyses

(a) Statistics on National, Regional, and Community Volunteering Rates and Magnitudes, 1987 and 1997

Rates of Volunteering (Table 1)

Over the decade between 1987 and 1997, the national rate of volunteering rose 4.6 percentage points, from 26.7 percent of the adult population aged 15 years and older to 31.4 percent. This represents a modest average compounded increase each year of 1.6 percent, comparable to the rate of inflation. In 1987 the Prairie provinces stood ahead of the rest of Canada with a rate of about 39 percent, followed in descending order by the Atlantic, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec regions. Ten years later in 1997, this pattern had not changed. However, the positions and gaps among the regions had changed because the overall growth rate of 4.6 percent for Canada was unevenly distributed. Ontario and the Atlantic region grew fastest — over 6 percent, while the Prairies, British Columbia and Quebec grew at half that rate — about 3 percent. The growth rates across community size categories were identical, with the 4.6 percent rise in participation occurring equally in communities of all sizes.

Levels and Density of Participation (Average Hours Volunteered Per Person For Canada and Regions (Table 2)

When we look at the density of the volunteered effort in each region — the average hours volunteered per person in the region — different patterns are apparent across Canada over the ten years. Hours volunteered per person declined by about 5 percent in the Prairie region and by 12 percent in Quebec. In contrast, hours per person rose slightly in British Columbia and in the Atlantic provinces (about 3 percent) and rose markedly in Ontario (up 13 percent). However, these figures (in Panel 1of Table 2) reflect both the rate at which people volunteer and how many hours they volunteer. So in British Columbia, where the rate of volunteering grew by 3 percent, the density of volunteering also grew by about 3 percent. In contrast, in Quebec, where the rate also grew by 3 percent, density declined by 12 percent. In British Columbia, not only was a larger proportion of people volunteering in 1997, but they were giving more hours as well. In Quebec, more people were volunteering but overall they were giving fewer hours. To better see what volunteers were actually doing in 1997 relative to 1986, we can look at the time actually put in by those who did volunteer. Panels 2 and 3 of Table 2 show the average (mean) median hours per volunteer. We present both because the distributions of hours volunteered are heavily skewed (many lower-time volunteers and a few very high-time volunteers); while the mean hours show the average effort per volunteer, it is strongly affected by the relatively few people with very high hours and small changes in this group over the ten years can strongly affect the trend. In contrast, for the median, changes in the high end of the distribution have very little effect.

Looking at average hours per volunteer, we see that for all regions, volunteer time declined 22 per cent over the ten years with Quebec showing a very large drop of almost 25 percent. This is more than three times the decline in British Columbia, where average hours dropped only 7 percent. However, volunteers in Quebec in 1987 had the highest level of average (or mean) hours and even after declining by nearly one-quarter, were still the second highest in 1997. But when we look at the change in median hours, the differences among regions were less

pronounced — Quebec still led with a 41 percent decline in the median, but Ontario also showed a marked decline. Still, Quebec in 1997 had the lowest median hours volunteered. Overall, then, volunteer involvement rose very slightly but volunteer effort declined substantially in Canada during the 1990s, a pattern most pronounced in Quebec and least in British Columbia.

Rates, Levels and Densities of Volunteering for Categories of Community Size (Tables 1 and 3)

Growth of rates of volunteering showed no differences across categories of size of community (Table 1). However, hours volunteered per person rose markedly in small urban areas — almost 15 percent. Hours per person rose about 8 percent in rural areas but remained stable in large urban areas (Table 3).

Hours per volunteer declined everywhere, but most notably in large urban areas, down 17 percent. Mean hours per volunteer declined a little in rural areas but were basically stable in small urban areas. However, median hours per volunteer declined by over 20 percent in all three community size categories.

Volunteering: Rates, Levels, and Density by Region and Community Size Together

1. Participation Rates (Table 4)

Overall, participation rates grew in nearly all the region/metro areas. The two exceptions were Quebec/small urban, and British Columbia/rural, where participation rates were stable, and Prairies large urban, where rates grew slightly. In contrast, rates increased markedly in Atlantic/ and Prairies/small urban. And overall, growth was strongest in Ontario where rates increased by nearly 7 percent in all three community size categories.

2. Density of Participation (Table 5)

Except for Ontario, all large urban areas experienced a decline in the density of volunteering, with large declines in the Prairies and British Columbia. Rural areas experienced a small rise in hours per person, or no change, in all regions except British Columbia where density rose by about 17 percent. Small urban areas show large increases in density in the Maritimes, Prairies and British Columbia, but very little change in Ontario and a sharp decline in Quebec.

3. Level of Participation (Tables 6 and 7)

Compared with the decline in hours per volunteer of 13 percent for Canada as a whole, mean hours per volunteer declined everywhere in every region/community size class except in small urban Prairies and British Columbia and rural British Columbia, where mean hours rose. Large urban areas all declined, though in Ontario the drop was small: 8 percent. Elsewhere, it was large — mean volunteer hours down by 16 to 30 percent. Quebec showed marked decline in large and small urban areas but only a small decline in rural areas. Median volunteer time declined everywhere except in large Atlantic urban centres, and small urban and rural communities in British Columbia. The median declines were largest in Quebec and Ontario. The increase in mean hours in small Prairie communities was offset by a marked decline in the median. This implies that increased participation in the Prairies was uniquely bi-modal — an influx of low-time volunteers offset by a few more, or harder working, very high-time volunteers. It is only in British Columbia small urban and rural communities that volunteer effort actually seems to have increased across the board — both mean hours and median hours increased. In fact, because volunteer participation rates had declined in rural British Columbia, the increase in volunteer effort is even more noteworthy.

(b) National Statistics on Volunteering Rates and Magnitudes Between 1997 and 2000

During the fall of 1999 and through the spring of 2000, we conducted extended interviews with 350 Canadians who comprised a stratified random sample of those who had participated in the 1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. While our primary purpose was to query respondents about motives and reasoning associated with volunteering and charitable giving, we began the interviews with several questions about whether they had changed their status as volunteers or non-volunteers and if volunteers, had changed their volunteering time, during the approximately two and one-quarter years that had elapsed since the NSGVP. The results which at the time of publication are the most up-to-date measure of change in Canada's volunteering rate, are displayed in Table 8. We found that an average of 70.5 percent of all volunteers were continuing to volunteer and at the same level, while 18.8 percent had stopped volunteering altogether (the exit rate) and 8 percent were volunteering less time. The exit rate, for us, was surprisingly high for low-activity volunteers: 22.4 percent. Offsetting the average 18.8 percent decline was an entry rate (non-volunteers in 1997 who had become volunteers by 1999) of 11.8 percent. In sum, then, there was a net loss of 7 percent in the rate — more than 3 percent per year — and a decline in volunteering time for 8 percent of volunteers. These figures run sharply counter to the 1987-97 rise in rates but are consistent with the sharp decline in volunteer hours.

(c) Who's Up, Who's Down? Changes (or Not) in Volunteering Associated with Selected Social and Economic Characteristics

Age Groups

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 9 a)

The 15 to 24-year-olds almost doubled their rate of participation from a very low 18 percent in 1987 to a respectable 33 percent in 1997. At the same time, the rates for 25 to 34 year-olds and 35 to 44 year-olds remained quite stable. Those aged 45 to 54 increased their rate by about 15 percent; those 55 to 64 increased their participation rate by almost 10 percent; and those 65 years and over remain relatively unchanged.

Clearly the biggest change was among the 15-24 year-old age group, which almost doubled its participation rate. But this group started with an atypically low rate, so the increase brought it into closer alignment with the participation rates of other age groups. This age group shrank as a portion of the Canadian population, from 20 percent in 1987 to 17 percent in 1997 yet it accounted for 28 percent of 'new' volunteers (the 1997 count minus the 1987 count). By comparison, the only other group that declined as a portion of the total population, the 25 to 34 year-old age group, went from 23 to 19 percent of the population and accounted for only three percent of new volunteers (Table 9 (b)).

A further interesting feature of Table 9 is the possibility of identifying age, cohort or period effects in the 1987-97 comparison. While cross-sectional data cannot identify each of the three effects with certainty, there are some hints of potential effects.

The 15 to 24 year-old cohort in 1987 appears to show an age effect in the transition to 1997. It goes from a rate of 18 percent to 28 percent, and the rate for the 25 to 34 year-olds in 1987 was 27 percent. So the 15 to 24 year-olds in 1987 had brought their rate up to the same level in '997 as the 25 to 34 year-olds had in 1987.

The 25 to 34 year-olds in 1987 (who were aged 35 to 44 in '97) raised their rate from 27 to 37 percent. Again, this suggests an age artifact because the change brings them in 1997 in line with the 1987 35 to 44 year-old rate of 36 percent.

The 35 to 44 year-olds in 1987 maintained their participation rate in 1997. They were stable at about 36 percent, and this is 4 percent above the 45 to 50-year-old rate in 1987. This may be a cohort effect because even in the face of the nearly five percent overall increase in national rates, this cohort kept its rate from 1987. However, it can as well be an age and period effect; the age effect would reduce the participation rate from 36 to 31 percent, but this would be offset by the period effect which raised their rate by five percent.

The 1987, 45 to 50 year-old group may also show a cohort effect. Its rate remained stable at about 30 percent. But again this may be a combination of age and period effects. An age effect would have tended to reduce their rate from 31 to 27 percent, but the period effect would have offset this decline somewhat, resulting in a 1997 rate of 30 percent.

The last cohort, those 55 to 64 in 1987 and 65 and over in 1997, seems to show a clear age effect. Its rate dropped from 27 percent in 1987 to 23 percent in 1997, and the 1987 65-plus rate was 22 percent.

In sum, there are possibly three age effects, involving the two youngest, and the oldest, cohorts. The two middle cohorts may also show cohort-specific effects, but a combination of age and period effects can also explain the 1987-97 shifts. Moreover, there is no way to tell if the three clear age effects among the two youngest cohorts are not, in fact, attenuated age effect and period effects (because both changes were positive and greater than the period effect). The change for the oldest cohort (in 1997) is a clear age effect because the change was negative.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 9)

The change in volunteering effort per person was most dramatic in the youngest cohort: this group increased its effort by about 42 percent. This contrasts with the 25 to 34, 35 to 44, and 55 to 64 year-old age groups where effort actually declined over the period. For those 45 to 54 and those 65 and over, there was modest growth in effort.

However, if we look at changes in terms of age cohorts from 1987 to 1997, a very different picture emerges. Those who in 1987 were 15 to 24, and 25 to 34, increased their density of volunteering by 31 and 19 percent respectively. All the older cohorts from 45 to 54 and up in 1987 showed a decline in volunteer effort.

3. Magnitude of Volunteering (Tables 10 and 11)

As measured by average hours per volunteer, volunteering effort declined for all ages except those over 65. The largest decline was in the 15 to 24-year-old group. Since this group has a very large increase in rates, this indicates that the large majority of the new volunteers in this group gave below-the-mean hours. Whether we compare age groups in 1987-97 or age cohorts from 1987-97, average hours volunteered declined for every group except those over age 65. Using median hours, every age group showed substantial decline in time contributed, although the older age cohorts show a little less decline than the younger ones.

Gender (Tables 13, 14, 15)

Male rates rose five percent, women's rates rose three percent.
Density rose 4% for men but declined 2% for women.
Magnitude decreased about the same for both groups.

Volunteers With Children Under 6

There is no distinctive pattern for those with children under age 6; rates remained either flat or slightly negative. Both density and magnitude declined for all three groups.

Volunteers with Children Aged 6 Plus (Table 16)

1. Volunteering Rates

Those with no children six years of age or older showed an increase in rates slightly below the national rate. However as the number of children older than 6 years increases, the rise in rates from 1987 to '997 became larger. In fact, for those with three or more kids in this age group, rates increased by almost 20 percent. Clearly, something happened between 1987 and 1997 that resulted in parents with older children substantially increasing their rate of participation as volunteers.

2. Density of Volunteering

Average hours per volunteer declined for those with no children in this age group. But for those with at least one child, density increased, modestly for those with one or two children in this age group but very dramatically for those with three or more.

3. Magnitude

When we look at hours volunteered per volunteer, those without children and those with two or fewer all declined. Those with three or more children actually showed a substantial increase in hours per volunteer. This pattern of decline and increase also appears in median hours.

4. What's Going on Here?: A Closer Look at Volunteers with Children Aged 6 plus (Table 17)

One hypothesis is that more parents volunteered in response to cutbacks in government-provided social and recreational services. Had this been the case, then the pattern of 'type of organization volunteered for' should show a different pattern for those volunteers with kids, versus no kids, in the shifts from 1987 to 1997. Those with kids six and older should show increased volunteering for education and youth organizations, social services, and sport and

recreation organizations, while for those with no kids, the increases would be much smaller, if any. Looking only at organization types where there was more than a 4 percent change from 1987 to 1997, Table 17 shows, first, participation in education and youth organizations was a stable percentage of all organizations volunteered for by those with no kids, while for those with children in the age six years plus category, education and youth organizations drops by 7 to 11 points as a proportion of all the organizations parents volunteered for. Second, where parents do show a large increase as compared to those without children is in the multi-domain organizations. Only if these are ones that in a sense take over cut-back or abolished government programs can the hypothesis be supported. This cannot be directly ascertained from our data.

The pattern in volunteering participation rates from 1987 to 1997 for families with children over the age of 6 was disaggregated by region, community size, gender, age, religiosity, and religion. The pattern held in every case. So whatever has been happening among this group is a broad national pattern. Unfortunately, the numbers become too small to pursue this analysis sufficiently further to find reliable answers.

Education Table 18)

1. Participation Rates

The largest increase has been among those with some post-secondary education, followed by those with high school. This is probably to be expected because of the large increase in rates among the 15 to 24 year-olds, many of whom would be in these two education categories. At higher levels of education, the change in rates is positive but low for those with university and negative for those with post secondary certificates.

2. Density of Volunteering

One category, those with some postsecondary schooling, showed a 14-point increase in average hours per person. All other groups show a decline.

3. Magnitude

Those with some post-secondary education showed an increase of nine percentage points in the average hours volunteered. All other groups show a decline, and the size of the decline decreases as the level of education increases.

Income (Table 19)

1. Volunteering Rates

With the exception of those earning less than $15,000 annually, rates tend to be unchanged over the ten years. Among those in the lowest income group, rates increased by almost 20 percent. And when we break age groups into income groups and examine the rates (Table 19b) we find that for all people earning less than $15,000 per year, only for those 15 to 24 did the rates increase substantially. For all the other age groups with low income, the rates were stable or declined slightly.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 20)

The density of volunteering declined for all income groups by about four hours per year (7-10%), with the exception of those in the highest income bracket ($60,000 plus) with a drop of 10 hours per year (15%).

3. Magnitude (Table 21)

All groups showed a decline in average hours per volunteer. The largest drop of 25 percent was among those under $15,000 income, followed by those in the highest income bracket who had a drop of 16 percent. The other groups declined by between six and 11 percent.

Religiosity (Tables 22-24)

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 18)

The participation rates increased for all religiosity groups, but the size of the increase declined as religiosity increases.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 23)

There is virtually no change in average hours volunteered per person 1987 to 1997.

3. Magnitude (Table 24)

Looking at average hours per volunteer, volunteer effort declines for all groups. In contrast to the pattern for rates, the decline in effort decreases as religiosity increases. So for Canadians of low religiosity, rates of incidence increased the most but their effort also declined the most.

Religion

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 25)

The No Religion and Protestant categories' rates rose by 8 to 10 points. Catholics rose by about four percentage points while those with Other Religion declined by 11 percent. However, the 1987 rate for those with No Religion was quite low, so the increase of 10 points

only brings them up to the same level as Catholics in 1997 for example. In contrast, the eight-point rise in rates among Protestants put them well ahead of all other groups in 1997.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 26)

Hours volunteered per person rose for No Religion and Protestant categories, but fell very slightly for Catholics and quite markedly for those with Other Religion. Again, the density of participation among Protestants is substantially higher than all the others.

3. Magnitude (Tables 27 and 28).

Hours per volunteer declined for all groups except Other Religion. But when we look at medians, it is evident that the change for the Other Religion group is due to its sharp decline in the rate of volunteering, while as a group retaining high-time volunteers and losing low-time volunteers. Protestants again show the least tendency for volunteer time to decline, while it is largest for those reporting having No Religion.

Marital Status

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 29)

Rates for those who were single rose sharply, up by about 12 percentage points during the 10 year period. For Married and Other, rates remained stable, showing only a 2-point rise.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 30)

The marked increase in participation rates for singles is reflected in the increase in hours volunteered per person of about seven percentage points. In comparison, the other two groups show an overall decline in effort.

3. Magnitude (Table 31)

However, looking at volunteer effort, we see that all groups declined, and in fact, singles declined the most. So the rise of volunteering among singles is mainly due to an influx of low-time volunteers.

Occupation

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 32)

All occupations showed increases in rates, with routine white-collar leading the way. Those at the top and bottom of the occupational structure, managers and those not in the labour force, showed the smallest increases.

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 29)

Three occupational groups show increase in volunteering density: white-collar, farmers and blue-collar occupations all show an increase in hours per person. Farmers actually increased their hours by one-third. Managers and professionals show a slight decline, but they were very high to begin with. Those with no occupation remained stable.

3. Magnitude (Tables 36a to 38)

Hours volunteered fell for all groups except farmers who increased their effort by about 15 percent. However the 1987 level was very low relative to other occupational groups so the increase in effort effectively brings their rate into line with the others in 1997. Those not in the labor force as a group stand out in the 1987-1997 comparison with distinctly higher levels of effort in 1997.

Health (Tables 36a to 38)

1. Volunteering Rates (Table 36a)

Those in poor health showed a substantial rise in volunteering rates -- up 12 points. This seems quite a lot, but the increase in the 87 rate is very low, to leave them in last place in '97. But since people were overall more pessimistic about their health in 1997, the change may simply be a consequence of people who rated their health as 'fair' in 1987 tending to rate their health as 'poor' in 1997 (Table 36 (b)).

2. Density of Volunteering (Table 37)

All groups show an increase in hours per person, but those in poor health increased their volunteer time by over 50 percent. Those in better health increased their effort by between 8 and 10 percent.

3. Magnitude (Table 38)

Hours volunteered per volunteer declined for all groups, but the largest increase was among those in poor health. So while their rates increased substantially, hours per volunteer declined considerably, suggesting that from 1987 to '97 the increase was mainly among low-time volunteers.

A Summary of Changes Associated with Stated Reasons for Volunteering (Tables 39-42)

- Volunteering for a cause: In both years virtually everyone who volunteered said they did so because of a cause they believe in. (This may be an artifact of the wording and limited set of reasons. This is discussed in detail in Reed and Selbee, 2000.)
- Volunteer to improve job opportunities: Volunteers in 1987 were twice as likely to give this motive as the volunteers in 1997 — 43 percent as compared to 22 percent.
- Volunteer for religious reasons: Volunteers in 87 were more likely to give this reason than volunteers in 1997, 47 versus 29 percent.
- Volunteer to use skills: Volunteers in 1987 were a little more likely to give this reason than volunteers in '97, but the differences were quite small -- 83 vs. 78 percent.

Motives for Volunteering by Age Group (Tables 43-46)

It is of interest, given the patterns of participation and effort that are unique to those under 24 and those over 65, to look at motives for volunteering disaggregated by age groups.

- Volunteering for a cause: There was virtually no difference between age groups in the proportions that gave this motive for volunteering. In general, there was about a 2 to 3 percent increase in the number who cited this motive.
- Volunteering for job opportunities: It has been suggested that in a soft labour market, young adults have been marking time and improving their job chances by volunteering. When we look at this motive disaggregated by age group (Table 44), the data do not support such a conjecture. In 1997, about 20 percent fewer volunteers gave this motive than in 1987 among those under 24. And as one would expect, as age increases, fewer people give this motive and the decline from 1987 to '97 in the proportions agreeing decreased with age. We would note, however, that the 1987 survey preceded by several years the deep recession and associated weakened labour market (most of all for young adults under age

25) of 1991-92 and the 1997 survey occurred well after that recession, so the 1987-1997 comparison could easily have missed what occurred between them.

- Volunteer for religious beliefs: (Table 45). For all age groups, markedly fewer people gave this as a motive in 1997 as compared to 1987. This seems to reflect the decline in religion as a factor in volunteering.
- Volunteer to use skills: (Table 46). For all age groups there was a modest decline in the proportion of give this motive for volunteering.

Comparing Multivariate Analyses of Traits of Volunteers in 1987 and 1997

In addition to the foregoing univariate analysis, we have also undertaken a multivariate assessment of possible changes in volunteers traits. In the course of analyzing the distinguishing characteristics of active volunteers in Canada (Reed and Selbee, 2000(a)) using data from the 1997 NSGVP, we also applied the same logit regression procedures to data from the 1987 Survey of Volunteer Activity in Canada, with minor adjustments to deal with comparability. In comparing results for the two time points, we sought to answer the question, Did the distinguishing characteristics of active volunteers change in any significant way between 1987 and 1997? Logit regression models were prepared only for the Prairie Region and Quebec, these having the highest and lowest rates of volunteering respectively.

While the 1987-97 comparison is somewhat imperfect because the 1987 data file contains fewer, and in some cases different, variables compared with the 1997 file, the results may be summarized in the following three points: (i) the 1987 models, with their smaller number of variables, had markedly less efficacy than the 1997 models; (ii) a limited number of the same variables occupied the top three positions in the 23 comparable models; the predominant variable was number of informal helping events which occurred in 10 of the 12 pairs of 1987 and 1997 models (i.e., for the models in each combination of community size and religiosity). Education was the second most frequently appearing variable (in 5 of the 12 pairs, all in the Prairie region); children aged 6-12 (6-15 in 1997), and family size also appeared in pairs in the

upper ranks of variables; and (iii) there were evident differences between the two regions, with education being a far more pervasive factor among active volunteers in the Prairie region (where it occupied the second rank in 8 models) than in Quebec. Given that the 1987 data contained no variables about charitable giving, early life experiences, or social participation, the consistent presence of informal helping, children aged 6-12, education, and household size in the top ranks of many models for both 1987 and 1997 indicate a high level of stability in the general set of traits of active volunteers during the 1990s.

(d) Are There Changes in the Types of Organizations Canadians Volunteer For?

Change, or stasis, can occur not only in the incidence, density, and magnitude of volunteering and in volunteers' characteristics, but also in the types of organizations to which individuals choose to volunteer their time and effort. Survey respondents in 1987 and 1997 were asked for information about the organizations they volunteered for, to a maximum of three. We analyzed the distribution of volunteers among thirteen organization types for each of these. The results are shown in Tables 47 (a)–(c); for each of the organization types, the 1987-97 comparison can be summarized as follows:

Up significantly in 1997:

- Health
- Arts and culture
- Multidomain organizations
- Environment and wildlife

Down significantly:

- Education and youth development
- Religious

Little or no change:

- Social services
- Sports and recreation
- Law and justice
- Employment and economic interests
- Society and public benefit
- Foreign and international

3. Summary and Reflections: Making Sense of Change and Constancy in Volunteering Activity in the 1990s

We have mapped the sources of change and stasis in volunteering throughout the late 1980s and 1990s not only to understand the dynamics of this behaviour but to ascertain whether the changes are short-term fluctuations or more likely to be long-term trends. The following summary and commentary speak to the latter purpose in terms of the two predominant changes: the modest increase in volunteering rate, and the sharp drop in the amount of time given by volunteers.

1. Much has been made of the 4.6 percentage point increase in the incidence of volunteering that occurred over the decade between 1987 and 1997 (an average of only about four tenths of a percent each year), but careful analysis tells a different story. There have been significant declines in mean and median hours per adult in the population, and per volunteer, and recent figures point to further decline in the rate of volunteering since 1997 as well as a continuing decline in amounts of time volunteers contribute.

2. The rank order of the regions in terms of their volunteering rates remained unchanged after 1987 but Ontario and the Atlantic provinces had increases above the national average, and Quebec's was below the national average during the 1990s.

3. Communities of different size showed no differences in changes in their volunteering rates, but where there was growth in hours volunteered per person, it occurred in small urban communities, mostly in the Prairie and Atlantic regions.

   Hours per volunteer declined everywhere, but most of all in large urban centres.

4. Within what socio-economic segments of the adult population in Canada were changes in volunteering located during the 1990s? When we consider age, gender, households with dependent children, education, income, occupation, marital status, religious affiliation, and self-assessed health status, a rise in the volunteering rate was concentrated in two clusters. The first comprises individuals 15-24 years old, single, people with some post-secondary education, and those with incomes below $15,000 — a set of traits that clearly profiles the college and university student cohort. The second cluster consists of individuals aged 45-54 and people who have dependent children aged 6 years or older in the household.

Declines in the amount of time volunteered occurred across the board, with no noteworthy concentration in particular socio-economic categories.

Volunteering in Canada in the 1990s, then, was characterized by three broad features: (i) there was an influx of volunteers whose time contribution was much lower (by about one-quarter) than was typical in the 1980s; (ii) a principal source of these incoming volunteers was the cohort of post-secondary students, and (iii) another principal source was individuals in their middle adult years with dependent children living at home. These features are understandable in terms of two dominant aspects of the 1990s: the serious recession in 1991-92 with elevated unemployment rates and an ongoing economic uncertainly that continued until 1998, and the widespread pruning of government budgets and programs. Soft labour markets through much of the 1990s were especially problematic for young adults; unable to find adequate employment, significant numbers of post-secondary students marked time in varied ways including engaging in volunteer activity, although they did so for well below-average amounts of time. Although not

yet widespread, another contributing factor might have been the increasing presence of compulsory community service in secondary school curricula.

The rise in volunteering by adults with dependent children can be interpreted as a response by parents to curtailment of community-provided programs and activities for children in combination with a growing ethos of more direct parental involvement in children's activities.

These patterns of change and stasis unavoidably prompt the question of what is the likely long-term trajectory of volunteering in Canada. Trends in Australia and a number of European countries clearly show declining rates of volunteering and in some instances, in amounts of time volunteered (see Lyons, 2000; Lyons and Fabiansson, 2000; Donoghue et al, 2000; Wright, 2000). The weight of evidence in Canada points in the same direction. Time volunteered dropped significantly between 1987 and 1997, and our small-scale sub-survey in 1999-2000 showed a net drop of 7 percent over the 2 years since 1997. It remains to be seen whether the two principal drivers of the small 4.6% increase in the national volunteering rate over ten years represent deep-seated changes in behaviour and are thus likely to support a continued rise, or whether they were adaptations to changes in social conditions that may not endure. The sizable rise in youth volunteering, for example, accounted for a large part of the 4.6% increase; without it, the national rate would have shown only a small change upward. If youth volunteering does not maintain the level of increase it experienced in the 1990s, the volunteering rate may well not continue to grow.

There is an ensemble of other factors which will apply pressures on volunteering levels in the future in both upward and downward directions. Movement of the large baby boom cohort toward the late years of their working lives and retirement will provide an enlarged pool of potential volunteers who, when they volunteer, may continue to give above-average amounts of time. Volunteering could also rise in response to perceived unmet needs in society, a strengthening of the ethos of mutuality, increased awareness of and confidence in voluntary organizations, or the rising level of education among Canadians. Downward pressure could

come from the ongoing metropolitanization of Canadian society, the trend toward Canadians expressing generosity and caring directly toward others rather than though organizations, the rising proportion of dual-earner families, the increasing intensity of life and the accompanying time deficit — these are but three examples.

One particularly influential factor could be the level of economic vigour and confidence. It is believed that volunteering rises in difficult times and declines when economic activity is high or rising. If this connection holds true and our current robust economy and economic confidence of the past several years is maintained, we could expect to see a downward trend in volunteering; if the economy moves to a slow growth or negative growth state, volunteering could rise.

There are other more subtle influences as well. Volunteering is in significant part the product of social values and ideals; it is often prompted by concern for others and by an implicit sense of personal obligation to contribute to collective wellbeing, and it is facilitated by individuals being anchored and connected within supportive social matrixes. Each one of these can rise or decline, however gradually or imperceptibly, with inevitable consequences for volunteering.

However strong may be the desire to know the direction of change in Canada's voluntary domain, we will be able to make sense of the currents of change and stasis only when we have a better grasp of the dynamics of volunteering, something that will be achieved only with the development of a systematic information infrastructure coupled to sustained analytical effort, both inside and outside the voluntary sector.

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Table 1

Rates of Volunteer Participation for Canada, Regions and Community Size Categories, 1987 and 1997

Region and Community Size	Participation Rates		Change	% Change
	1987	1997		
Canada	26.8 %	31.4 %	4.6	17.2
Atlantic	29.6	35.7	6.1	20.6
Quebec	19.2	22.1	2.9	15.1
Ontario	25.5	32.0	6.5	25.5
Prairies	38.5	41.6	3.1	8.1
British Columbia	28.9	32.2	3.3	11.4
Large Urban	24.0	28.9	4.9	20.4
Small Urban	29.4	34.2	4.8	16.3
Rural	32.0	36.8	4.8	15.0

Table 2

National and Regional Levels of Total Hours Volunteered, 1987 and 1997

Region	Hours Volunteered		Change 1987-97	% Change
	1987	1997		
All Respondents				
Atlantic	50.9	52.3	1.4	2.8
Quebec	37.7	33.2	-4.5	-11.9
Ontario	41.2	46.7	5.5	13.3
Prairies	61.4	58.2	-3.2	-5.2
British Columbia	52.4	54.2	1.8	3.4
Canada	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.7
Volunteers Only: Mean Hours				
Atlantic	172.4	146.5	-25.9	-15.0
Quebec	196.6	150.3	-46.3	-23.6
Ontario	161.9	146.1	-15.8	-9.8
Prairies	159.7	140.1	-19.6	-12.3
British Columbia	181.4	168.6	-12.8	-7.1
Canada	171.3	148.6	-22.7	-13.3
Volunteers Only: Median Hours				
Atlantic	90	67	-23	-25.6
Quebec	95	56	-39	-41.1
Ontario	96	65	-31	-32.3
Prairies	86	67	-19	-22.1
British Columbia	104	85	-19	-18.3
Canada	95	66	-29	-30.5

Table 3

Community Size Levels of Total Hours Volunteered, 1987 and 1997

Community Size	Hours Volunteered 1987	Hours Volunteered 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
All Respondents				
Large Urban	42.1	42.2	0.1	0.2
Small Urban	52.5	60.2	7.7	14.7
Rural	48.8	52.6	3.8	7.8
Canada	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.7
Volunteers Only: Mean Hours				
Large Urban	175.5	146.1	-29.4	-16.8
Small Urban	178.8	176.1	-2.7	-1.5
Rural	152.4	143.0	-9.4	-6.2
Canada	171.3	148.6	-22.7	-13.3
Volunteers Only: Median Hours				
Large Urban	96	64	-32	-33.3
Small Urban	100	76	-24	-24.0
Rural	83	66	-17	-20.5
Canada	95	66	-29	-30.5

Table 4

Rates of Volunteer Participation, by Region and Community Size Categories, 1987 and 1997

Region and Community Size		Participation Rates 1987	Participation Rates 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Atlantic	Large Urban	31.6 %	35.8 %	4.2	13.3
	Small Urban	28.3	36.7	8.4	29.7
	Rural	30.6	35.2	4.6	15.0
Quebec	Large Urban	17.3	20.8	3.5	20.2
	Small Urban	23.2	23.0	-0.2	-0.9
	Rural	21.2	25.4	4.2	19.8
Ontario	Large Urban	23.3	29.9	6.6	28.3
	Small Urban	28.3	34.8	6.5	23.0
	Rural	32.2	39.1	6.9	21.4
Prairies	Large Urban	36.6	38.1	1.5	4.1
	Small Urban	39.0	46.3	7.3	18.7
	Rural	42.4	47.0	4.6	10.8
British Columbia	Large Urban	24.4	28.8	4.4	18.0
	Small Urban	33.0	38.2	5.2	15.8
	Rural	39.5	39.4	-0.1	-0.3

Table 5

Regional Levels of Mean Hours Volunteed, All Respondents, by Community Size Categories, 1987 and 1997

Region and Community Size		Hours Volunteered 1987	Hours Volunteered 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
All Respondents: Mean Hours					
Atlantic	Large Urban	53.8	51.0	-2.8	-5.2
	Small Urban	49.7	60.2	10.5	21.1
	Rural	51.7	51.2	-0.5	-1.0
	Region	50.9	52.1	1.2	2.4
Quebec	Large Urban	35.8	33.3	-2.5	-7.0
	Small Urban	51.5	37.8	-13.7	-26.6
	Rural	27.9	30.8	2.9	10.4
	Region	37.7	33.2	-4.5	-11.9
Ontario	Large Urban	37.5	44.3	6.8	18.1
	Small Urban	48.6	50.5	1.9	3.9
	Rural	48.5	54.5	6.0	12.4
	Region	41.2	46.7	5.5	13.3
Prairies	Large Urban	59.7	51.1	-8.6	-14.4
	Small Urban	62.8	83.2	20.4	32.5
	Rural	64.0	65.7	1.7	2.7
	Region	61.4	58.2	-3.2	-5.2
British Columbia	Large Urban	48.3	39.6	-8.7	-18.0
	Small Urban	55.4	95.1	39.7	71.7
	Rural	62.2	74.1	11.9	19.1
	Region	52.4	54.2	1.8	3.4

Table 6

Regional Levels of Mean Hours Volunteed, Volunteers Only,
by Community Size Categories, 1987 and 1997

Region and Community Size		Hours Volunteered 1987	Hours Volunteered 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Volunteers Only: Mean Hours					
Atlantic	Large Urban	169.9	142.4	-27.5	-16.2
	Small Urban	175.7	163.7	-12.0	-6.8
	Rural	169.3	145.7	-23.6	-13.9
	Region	172.4	146.5	-25.9	-15.0
Quebec	Large Urban	206.3	160.5	-45.8	-22.2
	Small Urban	222.8	164.8	-58.0	-26.0
	Rural	131.6	121.2	-10.4	-7.9
	Region	196.6	150.3	-46.3	-23.6
Ontario	Large Urban	161.1	148.4	-12.7	-7.9
	Small Urban	171.7	145.0	-26.7	-15.6
	Rural	151.0	139.3	-11.7	-7.7
	Region	161.9	146.1	-15.8	-9.8
Prairies	Large Urban	163.2	134.2	-29.0	-17.8
	Small Urban	161.1	179.6	18.5	11.5
	Rural	151.1	139.7	-11.4	-7.5
	Region	159.7	140.1	-19.6	-12.3
British Columbia	Large Urban	198.5	137.6	-60.9	-30.7
	Small Urban	167.9	249.3	81.4	48.5
	Rural	160.0	188.6	28.6	17.9
	Region	181.4	168.6	-12.8	-7.1

Table 7

Regional Levels of Median Hours Volunteed, Volunteers Only, by Community Size Categories, 1987 and 1997

Region and Community Size		Hours Volunteered 1987	Hours Volunteered 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Volunteers Only: Median Hours					
Atlantic	Large Urban	65.2	72.0	6.8	10.4
	Small Urban	102.0	70.5	-31.5	-30.9
	Rural	82.3	61.0	-21.3	-25.9
	Region	90.0	66.6	-23.4	-26.0
Quebec	Large Urban	101.0	62.0	-39.0	-38.6
	Small Urban	100.0	75.7	-24.3	-24.3
	Rural	64.1	45.0	-19.1	-29.8
	Region	95.0	56.0	-39.0	-41.1
Ontario	Large Urban	96.0	63.0	-33.0	-34.4
	Small Urban	104.0	70.0	-34.0	-32.7
	Rural	84.0	65.7	-18.3	-21.8
	Region	96.0	65.0	-31.0	-32.3
Prairies	Large Urban	83.0	60.1	-22.9	-27.6
	Small Urban	90.3	71.5	-18.8	-20.8
	Rural	86.0	76.2	-9.8	-11.4
	Region	86.0	67.0	-19.0	-22.1
British Columbia	Large Urban	114.6	79.9	-34.7	-30.3
	Small Urban	96.0	98.5	2.5	2.6
	Rural	96.0	101.6	5.6	5.8
	Region	104.0	85.4	-18.6	-17.9

Table 8

Changes in Volunteer Participation from November 1997 to March 2000

1997 Classification *	Participation in Spring 2000 relative to Fall 1997						
	More	Same	Less	**Sub-Total**	Change to Informal Volunteering	Non-Volunteering	**Total**
High Activity Volunteer	0.0	75.0	8.0	83.0	1.0	16.0	100.0
Low Activity Volunteer	5.3	64.5	7.9	77.6	0.0	22.4	100.0
All Volunteers	2.3	70.5	8.0	80.7	0.6	18.8	100.0

	Volunteering	Non-Volunteering	Informal	**Total**
Non-Volunteer	11.8	81.4	6.9	100.0

* High activity volunteers are those above the national median of 66 hours volunteered annually. Low activity volunteers are those below the median

Table 9 (a)

Growth in the Number of Volunteers, by Age Group, 1987 and 1997

Age Group	Volunteers 1987	Volunteers 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change 1987-97	Age Group's % of Total Change	Census Population Distribution 1987	Census Population Distribution 1997	% Change in Population
15-24	715,480	1,307,831	592,351	82.8	27.8	20.2	16.7	-3.5
25-34	1,256,908	1,314,215	57,307	4.6	2.7	23.0	19.4	-3.6
35-44	1,351,539	1,872,171	520,632	38.5	24.4	18.9	21.5	2.6
45-54	795,565	1,410,026	614,461	77.2	28.8	13.0	16.7	3.7
55-64	635,681	766,729	131,048	20.6	6.1	11.7	10.8	-0.9
65+	582,171	800,542	218,371	37.5	10.2	13.2	14.8	1.6
Total	5,337,344	7,471,514	2,134,170	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 9 (b)

Rates of Volunteer Participation by Age Group and Cohort Effects, 1987 and 1997

	Participation Rates					
	Age Group				Cohorts	
	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change	Change 1987-97	% Change
15-16	23.1	34.5	11.4	49.4		
17-19	18.7	38.8	20.1	107.5		
20-24	15.4	28.8	13.4	87.0		
15-24	18.0	33.0	15.0	83.3		
25-34	27.4	28.4	1.0	3.6	10.4	57.8
35-44	35.8	36.5	0.7	2.0	9.1	33.2
45-54	30.7	35.4	4.7	15.3	-0.4	-1.1
55-64	27.2	29.7	2.5	9.2	-1.0	-3.3
65+	22.0	23.0	1.0	4.5	-4.2	-15.4
65-69	28.6	24.8	-3.8	-13.3		
70+	18.5	21.8	3.3	17.8		
Total	**26.7**	**31.4**	**4.7**	**17.6**		

Table 10

Average Hours Volunteered Per Person, by Age Group and Cohort Effects, 1987 and 1997

	Average Hours Volunteered					
	Age Group				Cohorts	
	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change	Change 1987-97	% Change
15-16	35.0	30.7	-4.3	-12.3		
17-19	31.8	51.2	19.4	61.0		
20-24	25.2	39.3	14.1	56.0		
15-24	28.9	41.0	12.1	41.9		
25-34	43.7	37.9	-5.8	-13.3	9.0	31.1
35-44	60.6	51.8	-8.8	-14.5	8.1	18.5
45-54	53.7	55.8	2.1	3.9	-4.8	-7.9
55-64	49.8	47.4	-2.4	-4.8	-6.3	-11.7
65+	42.9	45.9	3.0	7.0	-3.9	-7.8
65-69	55.3	46.5	-8.8	-15.9		
70+	35.8	45.6	9.8	27.4		
Total	**45.8**	**46.6**	**0.8**	**1.7**		

Table 11

Average Hours Volunteered, per Volunteer by Age Group and Cohort Effects, 1987 and 1997

	Average Hours Volunteered					
	Age Group				Cohorts	
	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change	Change 1987-97	% Change
15-16	151.8	89.1	-62.7	-41.3		
17-19	170.5	132.1	-38.4	-22.5		
20-24	163.7	136.8	-26.9	-16.4		
15-24	162.9	124.6	-38.3	-23.5		
25-34	159.6	133.3	-26.3	-16.5	-29.6	-18.2
35-44	169.7	142.0	-27.7	-16.3	-17.6	-11.0
45-54	174.7	157.7	-17.0	-9.7	-12.0	-7.1
55-64	183.1	159.7	-23.4	-12.8	-15.0	-8.6
65+	193.6	202.2	8.6	4.4	19.1	10.4
65-69	193.8	188.9	-4.9	-2.5		
70+	193.4	209.2	15.8	8.2		
Total	**171.3**	**148.6**	**-22.7**	**-13.3**		

Table 12

Median Hours Volunteered, Volunteers only, by Age Group and Cohort Effects, 1987 and 1997

	Median Hours Volunteered					
	Age Group				Cohorts	
	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change	Change 1987-97	% Change
15-16	80.7	40.0	-40.7	-50.4		
17-19	75.0	48.0	-27.0	-36.0		
20-24	94.0	60.0	-34.0	-36.2		
15-24	82.0	50.0	-32.0	-39.0		
25-34	80.0	55.3	-24.7	-30.9	-26.7	-32.6
35-44	100.0	70.0	-30.0	-30.0	-10.0	-12.5
45-54	101.3	76.0	-25.3	-25.0	-24.0	-24.0
55-64	100.0	82.7	-17.3	-17.3	-18.6	-18.4
65+	103.0	80.0	-23.0	-22.3	-20.0	-20.0
65-69	92.2	78.3	-13.9	-15.1		
70+	113.5	80.0	-33.5	-29.5		
Total	**95.0**	**66.0**	**-29.0**	**-30.5**		

Table 13

Percent Volunteering, by Gender, 1987 and 1997

	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Male							
Non-volunteer	9,960	6,348	16,308	76.2	70.7	-5.5	-7.3
Volunteer	3,114	2,637	5,751	23.8	29.3	5.5	23.2
Total	13,074	8,985	22,059	76.2	70.7		
Female							
Non-volunteer	9,629	6,210	15,839	70.5	66.7	-3.8	-5.4
Volunteer	4,036	3,106	7,142	29.5	33.3	3.8	12.9
Total	13,665	9,316	22,981	100.0	100.0		

Table 14

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents, by Gender, 1987 and 1997

	Hours			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Male	45.0	46.9	1.9	4.3
Female	48.6	46.3	-2.3	-4.7
Total	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.8

Table 15

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only, by Gender, 1987 and 1997

	Hours			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Male	188.8	160.0	-28.8	-15.2
Female	157.9	139.0	-18.9	-12.0
Total	171.3	148.7	-22.7	-13.2

Table 16

Rates and Hours Volunteering, by Number of Children
6 Years and Over, 1987 and 1997

	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Rates				
0 Children	24.1	27.9	3.8	15.8
1 Child	26.5	33.6	7.1	26.8
2 Children	32.5	42.1	9.6	29.5
3+ Children	32.3	50.9	18.6	57.6
Hours Volunteered: All Respondents				
0 Children	41.9	40.3	-1.6	-3.8
1 Child	42.5	48.3	5.8	13.6
2 Children	58.1	62.3	4.2	7.2
3+ Children	52.0	97.7	45.7	87.9
Total	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.7
Hours Volunteered: Volunteers Only				
0 Children	174.3	144.8	-29.5	-16.9
1 Child	160.3	144.2	-16.1	-10.0
2 Children	179.2	148.0	-31.2	-17.4
3+ Children	161.3	191.9	30.6	19.0
Total	171.3	148.7	-22.6	-13.2

Table 17

Rates of Volunteering, by Type of Organizations and Number of Children 6 Years and Over, 1987 and 1997

	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Health				
0 Children	12.7	15.3	2.6	20.5
1 Child	9.5	12.2	2.7	28.4
2 Children	8.6	10.4	1.8	20.9
3+ Children	7.2	12.2	5.0	69.4
Education and Youth				
0 Children	7.7	7.4	-0.3	-3.9
1 Child	18.0	11.1	-6.9	-38.3
2 Children	22.9	11.7	-11.2	-48.9
3+ Children	23.3	12.1	-11.2	-48.1
Religious				
0 Children	18.7	14.6	-4.1	-21.9
1 Child	16.9	13.8	-3.1	-18.3
2 Children	15.2	12.7	-2.5	-16.4
3+ Children	21.2	15.2	-6.0	-28.3
Multi Domain				
0 Children	10.0	14.0	4.0	40.0
1 Child	8.3	16.3	8.0	96.4
2 Children	8.5	14.8	6.3	74.1
3+ Children	7.4	19.8	12.4	167.6

Table 18

Percent Volunteering, by Educational Level, 1987 and 1997

Educational Level	Count 1987	Count 1997	Count Total	Percent 1987	Percent 1997	Percent Change	Percent % Change
Elementary	570	260	830	12.7	13.1	0.4	3.1
Highs School	3,258	1,900	5,158	24.2	27.5	3.3	13.6
Some-Post Secondary	714	844	1,558	30.6	37.2	6.6	21.6
Post-Sec. Certificate	1,225	1,592	2,817	35.2	33.5	-1.7	-4.8
University	1,383	1,147	2,530	46.2	48.3	2.1	4.5

Table 19 (a)

Rates of Volunteer Participation, by Income Level, 1987 and 1997

Income Level	Percent 1987	Percent 1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
0 - 15 K	18.8	22.3	3.5	18.6
15 - 30 K	24.4	24.9	0.5	2.0
30 - 40 K	30.5	29.8	-0.7	-2.3
40 - 60 K	33.7	33.3	-0.4	-1.2
60 + K	39.6	40.1	0.5	1.3

Table 19 (b)

Rates of Volunteer Participation, by Age Group and Income Level 1987 and 1997

Age and Income Level		Participation Rates 1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	0 - 15 K	15.1	34.0	18.9	125.2
	15 - 30 K	17.6	25.0	7.4	42.0
	30 - 40 K	18.9	30.4	11.5	60.8
	40 - 60 K	21.1	33.1	12.0	56.9
	60 + K	25.2	36.6	11.4	45.2
25-44	0 - 15 K	20.8	20.4	-0.4	-1.9
	15 - 30 K	26.1	26.5	0.4	1.5
	30 - 40 K	34.6	28.3	-6.3	-18.2
	40 - 60 K	37.7	34.1	-3.6	-9.5
	60 + K	42.5	40.8	-1.7	-4.0
45-64	0 - 15 K	20.3	21.3	1.0	4.9
	15 - 30 K	25.8	25.5	-0.3	-1.2
	30 - 40 K	29.2	32.8	3.6	12.3
	40 - 60 K	37.6	33.2	-4.4	-11.7
	60 + K	44.5	41.8	-2.7	-6.1
65 +	0 - 15 K	18.4	15.0	-3.4	-18.5
	15 - 30 K	25.9	22.6	-3.3	-12.7
	30 - 40 K	40.5	28.1	-12.4	-30.6
	40 - 60 K	25.9	29.8	3.9	15.1
	60 + K	39.4	32.2	-7.2	-18.3

Table 20

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents, by Income Level, 1987 and 1997

Income Level	Hours 1987	1997	Change	% Change
0-15 K	37.3	33.2	-4.1	-10.9
15-30 K	43.0	39.3	-3.7	-8.6
30-40 K	52.8	48.1	-4.7	-8.9
40-60 K	53.6	49.7	-3.8	-7.2
60+K	65.7	56.0	-9.7	-14.8
Total	48.7	46.6	-2.1	-4.4

Table 21

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only, by Income Level, Canada, 1987 and 1997

Income Level	Hours 1987	1997	Change	% Change
0-15 K	198.7	149.1	-49.6	-25.0
15-30 K	176.0	157.5	-18.5	-10.5
30-40 K	173.4	162.4	-10.9	-6.3
40-60 K	159.1	149.7	-9.4	-5.9
60+K	166.0	139.8	-26.2	-15.8
Total	172.5	148.7	-23.9	-13.8

Table 22

Percent Volunteering, by Religiosity, 1987 and 1997

	Count			Percent			
Religiosity	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Low	564	740	1,304	18.4	26.3	7.9	42.9
2	1,630	1,235	2,865	21.0	25.9	4.9	23.3
3	3,510	2,685	6,195	29.5	33.7	4.2	14.2
High	1,341	976	2,317	43.2	44.3	1.1	2.5

Table 23

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents,
by Religiosity, 1987 and 1997

	Hours			
Religiosity	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Low	33.5	35.6	2.1	6.3
2	32.2	32.8	0.6	1.9
3	48.3	48.5	0.2	0.4
High	90.4	90.2	-0.2	-0.2
Total	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.7

Table 24

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only,
by Religiosity, 1987 and 1997

	Hours			
Religiosity	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Low	182.2	135.3	-46.9	-25.7
2	153.1	127.0	-26.1	-17.0
3	164.0	143.2	-20.8	-12.7
High	209.7	203.4	-6.3	-3.0

Table 25

Percent Volunteering, by Religion, 1987 and 1997

	Count			Percent			
Religion	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
No religion	564	1,245	1,809	18.4	27.6	9.2	50.0
Catholic	2,652	2,010	4,662	22.5	27.0	4.5	20.0
Protestant	2,922	1,601	4,523	34.9	42.7	7.8	22.3
Other	959	242	1,201	34.6	23.5	-11.1	-32.1

Table 26

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents, by Religion, 1987 and 1997

Religion	Hours 1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
No religion	33.5	37.5	4.0	11.9
Catholic	39.2	37.7	-1.5	-3.8
Protestant	57.4	64.1	6.7	11.7
Other	61.4	50.6	-10.8	-17.6

Table 27

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only, by Religion, 1987 and 1997

Religion	Hours 1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
No religion	182.2	136.0	-46.2	-25.4
Catholic	174.4	140.2	-34.2	-19.6
Protestant	164.7	150.1	-14.6	-8.9
Other	177.8	215.5	37.7	21.2

Table 28

Median Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only, by Religion, 1987 and 1997

Religion	Hours 1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
No religion	104.0	56.7	-47.3	-45.5
Catholic	85.0	59.0	-26.0	-30.6
Protestant	96.0	73.0	-23.0	-24.0
Other	112.0	103.9	-8.1	-7.2

Table 29

Percent Volunteering, by Marital Status, 1987 and 1997

Marital Status	Count 1987	1997	Total	Percent 1987	1997	Change	% Change
Married	5,145	3,691	8,836	31	33	3	8
Single	1,335	1,459	2,794	19	31	12	60
Other	670	593	1,263	23	25	2	9

Table 30

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents, by Marital Status, 1987 and 1997

Marital Status	Hours 1987	1997	Change	% Change
Married	50.8	50.0	-0.8	-1.5
Single	34.32	41.02	6.7	19.5
Other	43.81	41.58	-2.2	-5.1
Total	45.79	46.60	0.8	1.8

Table 31

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only by Marital Status, 1987 and 1997

Marital Status	Hours 1987	1997	Change	% Change
Married	166.8	151.6	-15.2	-9.1
Single	177.4	133.2	-44.3	-24.9
Other	194.1	168.3	-25.9	-13.3
Total	171.3	148.7	-22.7	-13.2

Table 32

Percent Volunteering, by Occupation, 1987 and 1997

Occupation	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997	% Change
Manager	713	563	1,276	37.0	38.7	1.7	4.6
Professional	1,161	957	2,118	42.4	45.6	3.2	7.5
White Collar	1,673	1,387	3,060	25.8	34.3	8.5	32.9
Farmer	242	153	395	36.4	42.1	5.7	15.7
Blue Collar	796	671	1,467	17.5	22.9	5.4	30.9
No Occupation	2,555	2,012	4,567	24.7	27.1	2.4	9.7

Table 33

Average Hours Volunteered, All Respondents,
by Occupation, 1987 and 1997

Occupation	Hours		Change 1987-97	% Change
	1987	1997		
Manager	61.6	57.2	4.4	-7.1
Professional	68.6	62.0	6.6	-9.6
White Collar	41.3	45.8	-4.5	10.9
Farmer	45.9	61.1	-15.2	33.1
Blue Collar	30.8	32.1	-1.3	4.2
No Occupation	46.2	45.6	0.6	-1.3

Table 34

Average Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only,
by Occupation, 1987 and 1997

Occupation	Hours		Change 1987-97	% Change
	1987	1997		
Manager	166.8	148.0	18.8	-11.3
Professional	161.8	136.0	25.8	-15.9
White Collar	15.9	133.5	-117.6	739.6
Farmer	126.4	145.3	-18.9	15.0
Blue Collar	176.2	139.8	36.4	-20.7
No Occupation	187.1	168.5	18.6	-9.9

Table 35

Median Hours Volunteered, Volunteers Only
by Occupation, 1987 and 1997

Occupation	Median Hours		Change 1987-97	% Change
	1987	1997		
Manager	106.0	68.0	38.0	-35.8
Professional	93.0	65.4	27.6	-29.7
White Collar	80.0	57.0	23.0	-28.8
Farmer	76.9	79.5	-2.6	3.4
Blue Collar	96.0	68.0	28.0	-29.2
No Occupation	104.0	72.0	32.0	-30.8

Table 36 (a)

Percent Volunteering, by Health Condition, 1987 and 1997

Health Condition	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Poor	172	591	763	10.7	22.8	12.1	113.1
Fair	941	1,236	2,177	21.0	27.4	6.4	30.5
Good	5,998	3,770	9,768	29.2	35.8	6.6	22.6

Table 36 (b)

Distribution of Health Condition.
1987 and 1997

Health Condition	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change 1987-97	% Change
Poor	1,613	2,587	4,200	6.1	14.4	8.3	137.7
Fair	4,481	4,837	9,318	16.8	26.9	10.1	60.0
Good	20,526	10,538	31,064	77.1	58.7	-18.4	-23.9
Total	26,620	17,962	44,582	100.0	100.0		

Table 37

Average Hours Volunteered.
All Respondents, by Health Condition,
1987 and 1997

Health Condition	Average Hours			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Poor	20.8	33.3	12.5	59.9
Fair	37.6	40.9	3.3	8.7
Good	49.3	53.5	4.2	8.5
Total	45.8	46.6	0.8	1.7

Table 38

Average Hours Volunteered,
Volunteers Only, by Health Condition,
1987 and 1997

Health Condition	Average Hours			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Poor	195.2	146.4	-48.8	-25.0
Fair	179.2	149.3	-29.9	-16.7
Good	168.7	149.6	-19.1	-11.3
Total	171.3	148.7	-22.6	-13.2

Table 39

Volunteering for a Cause, 1987 and 1997

	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Yes	6,322	5,509	11,831	93.6	96.0	2.4	2.5
No	429	228	657	6.4	4.0	-2.4	-37.5
Total	6,751	5,737	12,488	100.0	100.0		

Table 40

Volunteering for Job Opportunities

	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Yes	2,804	1,257	4,061	42.6	21.9	-20.7	-48.5
No	3,782	4,481	8,263	57.4	78.1	20.7	36.0
Total	6,586	5,738	12,324	100.0	100.0		

Table 41

Volunteer for Religious Beliefs

	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Yes	3,171	1,661	4,832	47.4	29.0	-18.4	-38.8
No	3,523	4,072	7,595	52.6	71.0	18.4	35.0
Total	6,694	5,733	12,427	100.0	100.0		

Table 42

Volunteer to Use Skills

	Count			Percent			
	1987	1997	Total	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Yes	5,557	4,471	10,028	82.9	77.9	-5.0	-6.0
No	1,145	1,265	2,410	17.1	22.1	5.0	29.1
Total	6,702	5,736	12,438	100.0	100.0		

Table 43

Percent Volunteering for a Cause, by Age Group, 1987 and 1997

	Percent			
Age Group	1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	91.6	92.0	0.4	0.4
25-44	94.0	96.4	2.4	2.6
45-64	93.6	97.1	3.5	3.7
65+	94.9	98.0	3.1	3.3

Table 44

Percent Volunteering for Job Opportunities, by Age Group, 1987 and 1997

Age Group	Percent			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	75.3	54.4	-20.9	-27.8
25-44	45.8	20.9	-24.9	-54.4
45-64	29.3	10.8	-18.5	-63.1
65+	8.7	2.8	-5.9	-67.8

Table 45

Percent Volunteering for Religious Beliefs, by Age Group, 1987 and 1997

Age Group	Percent			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	38.4	20.3	-18.1	-47.1
25-44	40.6	23.8	-16.8	-41.4
45-64	59.2	34.5	-24.7	-41.7
65+	64.5	49.0	-15.5	-24.0

Table 46 (a)

Percent Volunteering to Use Skills, by Age Group,
1987 and 1997

Age Group	Percent			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	88.9	82.7	-6.2	-7.0
25-44	82.1	79.5	-2.6	-3.2
45-64	82.8	75.4	-7.4	-8.9
65+	78.3	70.8	-7.5	-9.6

Table 46 (b)

Percent Volunteering for Job Opportunities, by Age and Religion, 1987 and 1997

Age and Religion		Percent			
		1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	No religion	76.7	56.5	-20.2	-26.3
	Catholic	76.1	55.8	-20.3	-26.7
	Protestant	77.3	53.1	-24.2	-31.3
	Other	67.3	48.3	-19.0	-28.2
25-44	No religion	37.2	23.9	-13.3	-35.8
	Catholic	50.2	21.9	-28.3	-56.4
	Protestant	45.5	19.4	-26.1	-57.4
	Other	39.9	17.2	-22.7	-56.9
45-64	No religion	35.6	11.7	-23.9	-67.1
	Catholic	35.2	9.5	-25.7	-73.0
	Protestant	23.4	10.7	-12.7	-54.3
	Other	31.5	17.2	-14.3	-45.4
65 +	No religion	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
	Catholic	14.4	1.6	-12.8	-88.9
	Protestant	6.4	3.3	-3.1	-48.4
	Other	7.6	0.0	-7.6	-100.0

Table 46 (c)

Percent Volunteering for Religious Beliefs, by Age and Religion, 1987 and 1997

Age and Religion		Percent			
		1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	No religion	9.4	8.1	-1.3	-13.8
	Catholic	39.7	18.6	-21.1	-53.1
	Protestant	32.5	23.9	-8.6	-26.5
	Other	63.4	41.7	-21.7	-34.2
25-44	No religion	9.3	7.0	-2.3	-24.7
	Catholic	44.3	20.1	-24.2	-54.6
	Protestant	35.0	28.9	-6.1	-17.4
	Other	68.5	49.4	-19.1	-27.9
45-64	No religion	12.8	5.0	-7.8	-60.9
	Catholic	65.7	34.1	-31.6	-48.1
	Protestant	55.3	39.7	-15.6	-28.2
	Other	74.9	56.3	-18.6	-24.8
65 +	No religion	4.5	14.3	9.8	217.8
	Catholic	70.3	48.4	-21.9	-31.2
	Protestant	62.5	52.8	-9.7	-15.5
	Other	75.9	55.2	-20.7	-27.3

Table 46 (d)

Percent Volunteering to Use Skills, by Age and Religion, 1987 and 1997

Age and Religion		Percent			
		1987	1997	Change	% Change
15-24	No religion	88.2	80.8	-7.4	-8.4
	Catholic	91.1	82.8	-8.3	-9.1
	Protestant	88.3	86.5	-1.8	-2.0
	Other	85.0	73.3	-11.7	-13.8
25-44	No religion	81.4	81.5	0.1	0.1
	Catholic	82.4	76.4	-6.0	-7.3
	Protestant	81.5	82.7	1.2	1.5
	Other	83.8	71.6	-12.2	-14.6
45-64	No religion	86.4	76.5	-9.9	-11.5
	Catholic	81.2	71.2	-10.0	-12.3
	Protestant	82.6	79.3	-3.3	-4.0
	Other	87.3	70.8	-16.5	-18.9
65 +	No religion	95.5	68.8	-26.7	-28.0
	Catholic	81.1	68.8	-12.3	-15.2
	Protestant	74.9	73.6	-1.3	-1.7
	Other	85.1	62.1	-23.0	-27.0

Table 47 (a)

Percent Volunteering, by Type of First-Cited Organizations, 1987 and 1997

Organization	Percent			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Health	10.9	13.9	3.0	27.5
Education and Youth Development	14.5	9.3	-5.2	-35.9
Social Services	9.2	10.2	1.0	10.9
Sports and Recreation	16.0	15.9	-0.1	-0.6
Law and Justice	1.2	1.1	-0.1	-8.3
Employment and Economic Interest	5.7	3.8	-1.9	-33.3
Religious	18.4	13.5	-4.9	-26.6
Arts and Culture	3.1	5.9	2.8	90.3
Society and Public Benefits	8.1	7.6	-0.5	-6.2
Environment and Wildlife	1.5	2.9	1.4	93.3
Foreign and International	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Multi Domain	10.1	13.3	3.2	31.7
Other	0.1	1.8	1.7	1700.0

Table 47 (b)

Percent Volunteering, by Type of Second-Cited Organizations, 1987 and 1997

Organization	Percent			
	1987	1997	Change	% Change
Health	10.0	13.5	3.5	35.0
Education and Youth Development	14.9	9.0	-5.9	-39.6
Social Services	9.3	7.3	-2.0	-21.5
Sports and Recreation	17.7	15.2	-2.5	-14.1
Law and Justice	1.3	1.6	0.3	23.1
Employment and Economic Interest	6.6	3.1	-3.5	-53.0
Religious	16.9	15.7	-1.2	-7.1
Arts and Culture	4.2	4.6	0.4	9.5
Society and Public Benefits	8.1	6.6	-1.5	-18.5
Environment and Wildlife	2.2	3.7	1.5	68.2
Foreign and International	1.3	1.1	-0.2	-15.4
Multi Domain	7.2	17.0	9.8	136.1
Other	0.2	1.5	1.3	650.0

Table 47 (c)

Percent Volunteering, by Type of Third-Cited Organizations,
1987 and 1997

Organization	1987	1997	Percent Change	% Change
Health	10.2	13.2	3.0	29.4
Education and Youth Development	15.3	8.3	-7.0	-45.8
Social Services	10.0	8.0	-2.0	-20.0
Sports and Recreation	17.1	14.4	-2.7	-15.8
Law and Justice	1.3	2.4	1.1	84.6
Employment and Economic Interest	5.3	3.3	-2.0	-37.7
Religious	17.3	15.0	-2.3	-13.3
Arts and Culture	5.7	5.0	-0.7	-12.3
Society and Public Benefits	6.2	5.3	-0.9	-14.5
Environment and Wildlife	2.4	2.9	0.5	20.8
Foreign and International	0.8	1.2	0.4	50.0
Multi Domain	8.2	19.6	11.4	139.0
Other	0.1	1.3	1.2	1200.0